



HOUSE COMMITTEE *on* APPROPRIATIONS
RANKING MEMBER ROSA DeLAURO

Supporting Seniors

Investments Included in the Fiscal Year 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act to Support American Seniors

Democrats in Congress have been fighting to secure transformative federal investments to help fight inflation, lower the cost of living, support working families, create American jobs, and combat climate change.

In December 2022, Democrats in Congress secured transformative investments in the 2023 federal funding bill that help the middle class, working families, small businesses, and the vulnerable who work hard. Instead of catering to the biggest corporations and billionaires, we are tackling some of our nation's biggest challenges with major investments in programs that support seniors.

Overall, the fiscal year 2023 funding bill provides \$108 billion to help Americans as they age. Below you will find a summary of all the provisions that help improve the quality of life for seniors across the country.

Labor-HHS-Education

The bill invests:

- \$2.5 billion for the Administration for Community Living (ACL), an increase of \$220 million over fiscal year 2022 levels, with significant increases in services for seniors, including:
 - \$1.1 billion for Senior Nutrition programs, an increase of \$100 million over fiscal year 2022;
 - \$410 million for Home and Community-based Supportive Services, an increase of \$11 million over fiscal year 2022;
 - \$217 million for Family and Native American Caregivers Services, an increase of \$12 million over fiscal year 2022; and
 - \$61 million for Protecting Elder Rights and Preventing Abuse, including an increase of \$15 million over fiscal year 2022 to support Adult Protective Services Grants, and an increase of \$2 million for the National Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.
- \$14 billion for the Social Security Administration's (SSA) operating expenses account, an increase of \$785 million over fiscal year 2022.
- \$4.4 billion for research at the National Institute on Aging, an increase of \$396 million over fiscal year 2022.

Military Construction & Veterans Affairs

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

- In fiscal year 2023, VA expects to treat 3.2 million patients aged 65 and older. Within VA Medical Care, \$70.4 billion is provided to treat this population, supporting numerous types of care for these seniors, including prescription medications, prosthetic and orthopedic services, specialized mental health treatment for older populations, and blind rehabilitation services that focus on age-related macular degeneration and other vision impairments.
 - VA Medical Care funding will also support \$84 million for the Office of Geriatrics and Extended Care, which provides national guidance on the needs of the aging veteran population and increases the VA's geriatric expertise.
 - The bill also supports VA's Geriatric Research, Education, and Clinical Centers (GRECCs), which are geriatric centers of excellence focused on aging that are located at 20 medical centers across the country and each connected with a major research university. Nearly \$6 million is provided to specifically support the work of these centers, with an increase of \$2.5 million over the fiscal year 2022 enacted level being distributed to the centers to fund new clinical innovations in the field. This will continue the GRECCs' three main missions of building new knowledge in geriatric care through research, improving health care for older veterans through the development of innovative clinical models of care, and providing training and education on best practices in caring for older adults for students in healthcare disciplines and VA staff.
- \$12 billion is provided for VA's Long-Term Services and Supports program, which provides long-term care to veterans whether at home or in residential facilities, as well as skilled nursing care, adult day health care, home health aide, hospice, and respite care programs.
 - \$4.9 billion is provided for the operation of VA's Community Living Centers, which serve approximately 8,000 patients in VA-operated nursing homes on a given day, and over 43,000 patients total in a year.
 - Over \$3 billion will support the needs of veterans in state-owned veterans' homes and community nursing homes, including \$1.5 billion for the approximately 27,000 patients in state-owned veterans' homes, and \$1.6 billion for the approximately 40,000 patients in community nursing homes.
- The bill provides \$150 million for Grants for Construction of State Extended Care Facilities, an increase of \$100 million above the 2022 enacted level and equal to the budget request. This increase will allow VA to provide more grants to assist States in constructing State home facilities, furnishing domiciliary or nursing home care to veterans, and expanding, remodeling, or altering existing buildings.
- Within the \$2.7 billion provided for homeless assistance programs, the bill ensures that VA has the resources needed to focus specifically on aging homeless veterans.
 - The Health Care for Homeless Veterans program will use \$4.5 million in fiscal year 2023 funds to develop a 10-site pilot program to meet the needs of the geriatric population and ensure future success in meeting this gap in VA homeless services.

- The Housing and Urban Development-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program will use fiscal year 2023 funds to assist with the design and development of project-based housing partnerships for aging veterans, a growing need and area of focus for the HUD-VASH Program.
- The \$916 million provided for VA's Medical and Prosthetic Research program will support over 700 projects specifically focused on aging, at an investment of \$151 million, which will include research into both the physiological aspects of aging and common geriatric syndromes, as well as improving care for elderly patients through targeted disease prevention and improvements in the delivery and outcome measures of care for elderly patients in health care facilities. Additionally, \$42 million is for dementia-related research and \$41 million is for research into degenerative diseases of bones and joints.
- The bill fully funds the VA's request of \$3.5 billion to continue support for mandatory pension payments to an estimated 300,000 veterans and survivors, a majority that are 65 years old and over. The average pension payment for eligible veterans is \$14,173 annually. The bill also includes \$3.3 billion of mandatory resources in advance for fiscal year 2024 to continue providing these benefits.

Armed Forces Retirement Home

- The fiscal year 2023 bill provides \$152.4 million to support the operations of the Armed Forces Retirement Home, which is home to nearly 700 military retirees or other former servicemembers and their spouses and provides levels of care from independent living to memory support. This includes \$77 million for the renovation of the main resident building on the Washington, DC, campus, which will address deferred maintenance needs, improve the assisted living section, and perform much-needed upgrades on resident rooms.

Transportation-Housing & Urban Development

The fiscal year 2023 funding bill includes:

Department of Transportation

- A combined \$429 million for the Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities transit formula grant program through the Highway Trust Fund and advance appropriations in fiscal year 2023, which represents a 46 percent increase when compared to fiscal year 2021, the last year of the FAST Act.
- \$2 million for an innovative mobility demonstration pilot program and the accelerating innovative mobility program and directs the Federal Transit Administration to use this funding to continue to fund agreements that support mobility for people with disabilities and older adults.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- Provides \$1.1 billion for Housing for the Elderly (Section 202), \$42 million above the fiscal year 2022 enacted level, which includes:

- \$120 million for service coordinators and the continuation of existing congregate service grants; and
- Up to \$25 million to expand the supply of Intergenerational/Grandparent housing units, to provide housing opportunities for grandparents raising grandchildren in urban and rural areas.
- Directs HUD to report on the barriers to building-wide internet services for current Housing for the Elderly (Section 202) units.
- Invests \$14.9 billion for Project-based Rental Assistance to continue to house more than 1.2 million very low- and low-income households nationwide, of which more than 51 percent are headed by seniors.
- Continues to serve more than 2.3 million very low- and extremely low-income households nationwide, of which more than 30 percent are headed by seniors, by providing \$30.3 billion for Tenant-based Rental Assistance.
- Encourages HUD to provide competitive grants for cooperative research in housing technologies, including technologies to enable “aging in place” strategies, through its core research program.
- Invests \$30 million in grants under the Healthy Homes Initiative for safety and functional home modification repairs and renovations to meet the needs of low-income elderly homeowners to enable them to remain in their primary residence.

Related Agencies

- Encourages NeighborWorks America to support training, counseling, and programs that assist seniors in sustainable aging in place and to invest in aging in place housing programs in regions of the country that have older housing stocks and older populations.

Agriculture-Rural Development- FDA

The fiscal year 2023 federal spending package provides:

- \$16 million for home preservation grants for seniors over 62 years of age to make home improvements to enable them to age in place.
- \$339 million for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program to improve the health of low-income persons at least 60 years of age by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA Foods.